



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

October 2018



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Brush Chipping
Saturday, October 13
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM
See page 12

Special Town Meeting
Monday, Oct. 15th
7:00 PM
At Abbot School Gym

State Election
November 6
See page 6



Watch Meetings
Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Every October our Westford firefighters participate in a campaign to increase breast cancer awareness, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I am honored to participate in their campaign and support them in this important cause. Speaking of our fire department, I would also like to congratulate Fire Captain Shawn Girard and Fire Lieutenant Darren Lanier on their promotions in our Fire Department! Our new Fletcher Fire Station 1 is expected to open at the end of the month, and we will hold an open house shortly thereafter once our firefighters are settled.

Our special town meeting is swiftly approaching, and will be held on Monday, October 15th, at 7:00pm in the Abbot School Gymnasium. Below is a brief synopsis of the articles:

Article 1 is a placeholder article to pay any unpaid bills from a previous Fiscal Year.

Article 2 would appropriate a sum of money to supplement Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budgets:

Recycling Expenses	\$80,000	To provide additional funding for increased disposal costs and tipping fees related to China's recycling ban implemented in 2018
Town Manager Expenses	\$200,000	Amount was determined at the 10/9/18 Board of Selectmen meeting to be used for the Town and School Safety Task Force consulting services
Water Enterprise Personal Services	\$8,000	To replenish funding for unscheduled overtime due to unanticipated failure of water main on Forrest Road, Cross Road, and George Lane
Water Enterprise Reserve Fund	\$200,000	To replenish funding for the emergency replacement of 1,600 linear feet of galvanized water main on Forrest Road, Cross Road, and George Lane

Article 3 would authorize the transfer of \$8,733 from the Fiscal Year 2019 135 Town Accountant Personal Services budget to the 141 Assessors Personal Services budget for the purposes of funding staff reorganization changes saving approximately \$20,000 in FY19.

Article 4 would appropriate \$217,800 to provide capital funding for street paving and other related expenses within the Vinebrook Estates development. This request is related to the water system betterment project that was approved at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The residents within Vinebrook Estates have requested the town provide the funding required to repave their streets as these are public roads, which have not been paved in approximately 36 years.

Article 5 would appropriate \$40,000 for the purposes of conducting baseline environmental testing to include air, water, and noise in the vicinity of and prior to the construction of the asphalt plant at Newport Materials, 540 Groton Road.

Article 6 would authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the parcel of land located at 63 Main Street for general municipal purposes.

Article 7 would transfer \$19,629.57 from Fund Balance Designated for Debt Exclusion Reduction to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2019.

(continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Article 8 would reallocate \$265,902 from the remaining premium of the sale from the town's \$12,615,000 bond to fund the construction of Fletcher Fire Station 1. Under the Municipal Modernization Act, this will reduce the amount of the bonding authorization by the excess premium and allow these funds to be used for the project.

Article 9 is an extension of Article 8, which would authorize the town to keep any excess premiums remaining with their respective projects to reduce the overall bond. This is for projects authorized prior to November 2016 and is related to the passage of the Municipal Modernization Act.

Article 10 would bring the town into compliance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, Section 5K to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a program that allows residents over the age of 60 to volunteer to provide services to the town in exchange for reducing their real property tax obligations by \$1,500 per year. This article also allows a representative to volunteer in place of a resident physically or otherwise unable to participate in the program.

Article 11 would authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to authorize the town to establish a means-tested senior citizen, low income property tax exemption.

Article 12 would authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors to negotiate and execute a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with Westford Solar Holdings LLC and Westford Solar Holdings II LLC, located at 10 Commerce Way.

I am very pleased to announce our town's bond rating was continued at a AAA rating by Standard & Poor's (S&P). We had a recent bond release and those bonds were rated SP1+ which is the highest rating available. We are continually recognized by S&P for having exceptional financial policies and procedures in place, and a strong financial management team who ensures sound practices across town departments.

Our Board of Selectmen approved the Notice of Intent for our town's stormwater management program, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency at their September 25th meeting. You will be learning more about our stormwater plan over the next several months with an article about the final adoption of the plan at our annual town meeting.

After a period of negotiations, the Selectmen approved a lease amendment with The Roudenbush Community Center, Inc to relocate our Parks, Grounds and Recreation departments to the 3rd floor of the Roudenbush building, upon completion of our rehabilitation project. This is very exciting for our town departments as we continue to work collaboratively with TRCCI to provide a variety of recreation and educational programs for our residents. We expect to move into the building in January.

The 12 North Main Street Task Force and the Selectmen have decided to release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the anodizing mill at 12 North Main Street. The town had accepted a proposal last year from Yule Development, LLC but deemed it to be "stale" due to the lack of progress on that proposal. Expect the new RFP to be released later in October.

Our Healthy Westford Committee has planned a Nabnasset Trail Community Walk for October 20th at 9:00 a.m. and again at 10:00 a.m. at the Nabnasset School Parking Lot. All are welcome to attend.

(continued on next page)

The Agricultural Commission is still looking for residents interested in planning for the return of the Farmers Market in 2019. Specifically, they are looking for interested residents who wish to be a part of gathering best practices from nearby farmers markets and local farms. Please send an email to Elizabeth Almeida at ealmeida@westfordma.gov if you wish to assist with this process.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Board of Water Commissioners, Cable Advisory Committee, Community Center/Mill Works/Recreation Department Task Force, Cultural Council, Dog Park Task Force, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Land Use Priorities, Lowell Regional Transit Authority, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Personnel Advisory Committee, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, Board of Appeals, and others. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I hope to see you at Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday October 15th.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Council On Aging - Coming Events

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PRESENTATION

THURSDAY NOV. 8, 5:30 PM

Are you approaching 65 and wondering what your options are for Medicare? Or maybe you have Medicare and want to know what's changed or just a reality check to see if your coverage is still good for you?

Come to our Open Enrollment presentation to get the answers from a certified SHINE (serving the health insurance needs of everyone) counselor.

Open Enrollment is from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7th. This is the only time during the year you can change your Medicare Advantage plan or your Part D plan drug coverage for the upcoming year. Don't miss it! Sign up!

HOLIDAY BASKETS

The Cameron Senior Center will be partnering with SVdP Society of St. Catherine's Church and the Westford Food Pantry for the Westford Holiday Basket Program. This program serves Westford families and individuals who would like to cook a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, and are facing a financial hardship. If you are interested in donating to the program, please contact Katie Russell at 978-399-2330. If you need food assistance for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, please call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325 to request a simple application. **Please note: The deadline for applications to be submitted is October 19th for both holidays.**

DISTRESS TOLERANCE:

LISA WESSAN, LICSW, RM, CLYL

Friday October 26th

2-3PM. Call 978-692-5523 to register.

Many Paths Up the Mountain-Based on the mind/body premise that every thought becomes a chemical reaction in the body, this workshop uses a multimodal approach to learning how to relax and renew body, mind, and soul. Processes include kinesiology demonstrations, learning new wordplay for better self-talk, healing with sound, laughter meditation, guided imagery and body work using chair Reiki.

Lisa Wessan, LICSW, RM, CLYL, is psychotherapist, life coach, DBT Skills Trainer (Dialectical Behavior Therapy), author, speaker and Reiki Master. Lisa works with individuals and groups who seek pleasure and fulfillment in their lives through improved energy and heightened consciousness. Lisa is also the on-air host and producer of the cable television Lisa Wessan Show. Her work has been featured in the media over the years, including CNN, Paula Zahn Now, The Boston Globe, The Lowell Sun and The Wall Street Journal. She is in private practice in Westford, MA and travels widely presenting a variety of wellness and stress management programs. Visit www.lisawessan.com for further information.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website at: www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



J. V. Fletcher Library News

Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.

The Friends October Book Sale is on the horizon: Mark your calendars for the weekend of **Friday, Oct. 12, Saturday, Oct. 13 and Sunday, Oct. 14.** A Friends Members Only Sale will be held on Friday evening from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A Friends membership (which may be purchased at the door) is necessary for attending the preview sale. The entire public is invited Saturday for an all-day sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and to the special half price extravaganza on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Cookbook Club: Thu., Oct 18 at 7pm. The Cookbook Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. This month's choice is *Gran Cocina Latina* by Maricel E. Presilla. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Sarah Regan in the Information Services Department at 978-399-2309. No registration required.

Lego® Club: Sat., October 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. Join us for an hour of brick fever fun as kids imagine, build, and create. Meet other Lego® enthusiast and relax as you talk about your love of bricks. We will supply the Legos® and display space. All creations will be displayed in the library until the next time we meet. Free, drop-in for ages 5 and up with a parent or caregiver.

Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., Oct. 22 at 10:30am. Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday of the month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. This month's selection is *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr. New members are always welcome! Drop in.

Knitting Group: Mon., Oct. 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Our informal knitting group meets in the Mary Atwood Room on the second Monday of every month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. AND the fourth Monday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a drop-in program that is open to all ages. Bring your latest project and share advice and socialize with other knitters! If you have any questions, please call Sarah Regan at 978-399-2309.

Paying for Your Own Health Insurance: Thu., Oct 25 at 6:30pm. Learn more about paying for your own health insurance. Licensed insurance agent and broker Bob Gaughan can advise on the enrollment process and answer questions related to who can enroll and when, deadlines, information needed, and how to ensure that your doctors/hospitals take your plan. Learn how the plans are structured and what you need to look out for. Bob can also advise about supplemental insurance plans in the face of lost wages or out-of-pocket medical costs. FREE! Register online or call Information Services.

Advanced Snap Circuits and Takeaparts: Fri., Oct. 26 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. We have five exciting Snap Circuits kits to play with: RC Cars, Light, Motion, Arcade, and 3D Illumination. Preregister online. This free program is for children in grades 3 to 5.

Ukulele Strum Along: Sat., Oct. 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. Learn to play by playing! Focusing on 2 and 3 chord songs, this program is for the beginner ukulele player who wants to practice and play music with others. Ukuleles available to borrow, songs are projected onto a screen so no music stands or books necessary. This program is open to adults and teens. Register online or in the Information Services Department to borrow a ukulele, or just drop in with your own.

Halloween Drop-in Crafts: Tues., Oct. 30 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Drop-in and make one of three Halloweeny crafts (while supplies last) - a glitter dot Great Pumpkin with Snoopy; a glitter dot black kitten; or a scratch off rainbow ghost, cat, pumpkin, or bat. This program is best suited for ages 4 and up.

Your Hearing: Why You Are Losing It, and What You Don't Know May Hurt You: Thu., Nov. 1 at 6:00 PM. Jonathan O'Dell, from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will talk about general best practices for people who think or know they have a hearing loss, why taking action is more important than ever before, and what auxiliary aids and services exist under the Americans with Disabilities Act to assist individuals with disabilities. He will also demonstrate assistive listening devices. Registration begins on Monday, Oct. 1.

Diwali Drop-in Craft and Henna: Mon., Nov. 5 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. This program is a combination of a Teen and Tween Make and Take Monday and a drop-in craft for all school age kids in Westford. Drop-in and create a stained-glass Diwali votive and have a henna design painted on your hand.

Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library Annual Meeting with Featured Speaker Kate Clifford Larson: Thurs., Nov. 8 at 7:00 PM. Come vote at the annual meeting at 7:00 PM and stay for the speaker at 7:30 PM. This year, the Friends are pleased to welcome Kate Clifford Larson, author of "Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter". Open to all!

Town Clerk's Corner

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MA
OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 2, 2018
 TOWN HALL
 55 MAIN STREET, WESTFORD, MA
NOVEMBER 6, 2018 STATE ELECTION



DATES AND TIMES

Extended hours are noted in bold print

Monday, October 22	8am – 4pm
Tuesday, October 23	8am – 4pm
Wednesday, October 24	8am – 8pm
Thursday, October 25	8am – 4pm
Friday, October 26	8am – 4pm
Saturday, October 27	8am – 12pm
Monday, October 29	8am – 4pm
Tuesday, October 30	8am – 4pm
Wednesday, October 31	8am – 4pm
Thursday, November 1	6am – 4pm
Friday, November 2	8am – 4pm (12 noon deadline to apply for early voting ballot to be mailed)

Health Department News

On September 24th, 2018, the Westford Health Department presented the new 2017 FDA Food Code to Westford Food Establishments at the Nabnasset Country Club. The Environmental Manager, **Seth Lajoie** presented the requirements of the new Plastic Bag Reduction Ban. The Health Agent, **Rae Dick** presented a power presentation to all attendees on all major changes from the 2013 Food code to the 2017 Food code. The Board of Health adopted the FDA 2017 Food Code in August with a January 1st, 2019 implementation date for Westford.

Additionally, amendments adopted by DPH in 2018 as the 105 CMR 590: State Sanitary Code, Chapter 10 – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments. The amendments to 105 CMR 590.000 were published in the Massachusetts register on October 5, 2018 and became effective upon publication. The regulation can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-59000-state-sanitary-code-chapter-x-minimum-sanitation-standards-for-food>

The Westford Health Department has been enrolled in the Voluntary National Retail Regulatory Program Standards. These have been *developed and recommended by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration with input from federal, state, and local Regulatory officials, Industry, trade associations, academia, and consumers.*

Additionally, On October 9, 2018 Public Health Nurse **Gail Johnson** has graduated from the Local Public Health Institutes' Management Program. This is an intensive 18-Week Course which teaches students the important points of managing effectively in today's society. Finally, Health Director **Jeffrey Stephens** was elected to the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Board of Directors this October. The purpose of the GLHA is to improve the Health and Wellness for those living in the community.



Health Department News (continued)



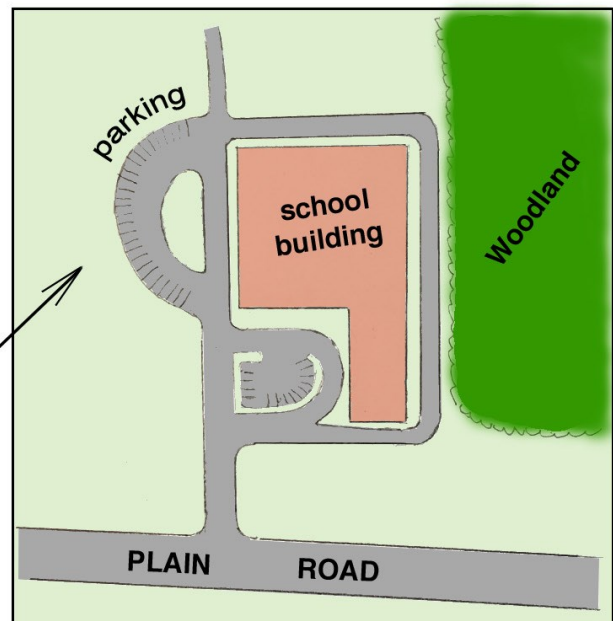
Come Walk With Us

Explore new
woodland trails
at Nab School

Suitable for families
with young children.

Saturday
October 20th
9 AM or 10 AM
(two walks)

parking for
Saturday



Trail map on reverse side

Sponsored by

- Healthy Westford Committee
- Westford Recreation Department



For information
call 978-692-5501



Health Department News (continued)



Westford
Massachusetts



Make a statement.
Bring your own bag
when you shop.



Plastic Bags:

Over 1 trillion are used worldwide every year.
Each year, less than 1% are recycled.
Takes up to 1,000 years to fully degrade.
3.5M tons net weight are discarded in a year.



Westford's **Plastic Bag Reduction** program will go into effect on **January 1, 2019.**

For more information, contact the Westford Board of Health at 978-692-5509

Parks & Recreation

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) is a Parks & Recreation sponsored After School Enrichment Program for K-8 that collaborates with Westford Public Schools. The WPC program begins at school dismissal and runs through 5:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. For participants, the WPC program provides a wide variety of after school activities in a safe, stimulating, and fun environment. For parents, the program offers flexible scheduling options and Special Programs coverage during professional development days, parent conferences, and February and April vacations.

WPC Session 1 is currently in process with an end date of October 26. Enroll at any point during the session.

WPC Session 2 starts on October 29 and runs through December 21. Session 2 will offer a range of activities such as *Book Club*, *Yoga*, *Dodge Ball*, and *Creative Science*. *Learning to Love Food*, a new activity offered at Crisafulli, explores healthy eating through games, take-home recipes, and the sampling of healthy food. (Taught by plant-based chef, Lauren D'Agostino.)

Registration forms can be found at 22 Town Farm Road or visit [About WPC](#) on westfordrec.com.

Parks and Fields Update

Westford Parks & Recreation consistently works to improve the outdoor facilities in our community. We recently resurfaced the tennis court at Captain Stephen Hamilton Field, 170 Plain Road, to create a multi-use outdoor tennis/pickleball court. Between this court and the newly resurfaced multi-use court at Greystone Field, we now have six outdoor pickleball courts in Westford.



Captain Stephen Hamilton Field multi-use outdoor tennis/pickleball court.

Fall Programs Starting Soon

For Adults: CPR, AED, and First Aid; Qi Gong and Tai Chi with Dave Crocker – You, In Better Balance with Circular Tai Chi; and Coed Volleyball - Beginner to Intermediate.

For Juniors: Junior Volleyball for Girls with Marie Henderson; and Impact Speed & Agility with Coach D.J. Brock.

For Squirts: No-Bake Cooking for Little Chefs.

Coming in November:

Seth Dichard Premier Golf School programs for Lil' Chippers, Juniors, and Adults; Cardio and Fitness Fun for adults; and Qi Gong and Tai Chi – My Health Preservation, 12-Method Qi Gong (Part 1) for adults.

To register, visit Programs on westfordrec.com, or see our online [2018-2019 Fall-Winter Brochure](#).

For more information about any of our programming or facilities,
please call us at 978-692-5532 or visit us at westfordrec.com.

Recycling Commission - Fall Dates

NOTICE: November 12, 2018, is NOT a holiday (Veterans' Day observed) for trash and recycling pickups. They will pick up according to the regular blue weekly schedule.

An Alert from the Westford Recycling Commission

PLASTIC BAGS, empty or filled, are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and toters. Any and all recycling with plastic bags is discarded as trash. Contamination is costly to the town and the hauler.

Empty. Clean. Dry.

The new way to recycle.

EMPTY - remove food or product residue.

CLEAN - rinse or wash empty containers.

DRY - let containers dry before placing in your recycling bin or toter.

NEW! Mass DEP **RECYCLE SMART** resources at

<https://recyclesmartma.org/smart-recycling-guide/>. Bookmark this page!

"What to Recycle?" and "Can I Recycle This?" and Recycling FAQ's are now online for not only Westford but all of Massachusetts. The major recycling haulers have agreed on a standard list of recyclables.

STYROFOAM COLLECTION

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9 am - 2 pm*

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

This collection is open to ANYONE or ANY business. No fee. Donations accepted.

ACCEPTED: ONLY Styrofoam #6 packing blocks or sheets, including coolers. Must be white, clean, and without stickers. Pack in plastic bags if possible (can be broken up into pieces).

NOT ACCEPTED: Styrofoam food containers, including cups and trays, and packing peanuts.

* Collection time will end before 2 P.M. if the truck is full.

Sponsored by the Green Team, Westford First Parish Church United.

REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE



Recycling Commission - Fall Dates - Continued

BRUSH CHIPPING

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

Proof of Westford residency required.

ACCEPTED: Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck ----- volume, includes a tow behind a full trailer.

NOT ACCEPTED: Building materials (e.g. fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.

Cost: \$10 per load, checks preferred, payable to the Town of Westford.

2018 MINI Household Hazardous Waste Day in Lowell

Saturday, November 17, 2018, is a MINI Household Hazardous Waste Day in Lowell. Open to non-residents who pre-register. Required registration opens a month before the event. Check online for dates, acceptable items, and fees (cash only). Note that non-residents will have additional costs for some items. <https://www.lowellma.gov/1073/miniHHWD>

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling for answers to your recycling and trash disposal questions.

Westford thanks you for recycling,
reducing, repurposing, and reusing!

